

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): A belt comprising:  
an arrangement that is attached to a portion of the belt, wherein  
the belt has a Young's modulus and the arrangement has a Young's modulus that is  
smaller than the Young's modulus of the belt, and  
the arrangement is a scale that is used to detect an amount of movement of the belt,  
wherein the Young's modulus of the ~~of the~~ belt is in a range of 3000 megapascals to  
7000 megapascals.

Claim 2 (Previously Presented): A belt comprising:  
an arrangement that is attached to a portion of the belt, wherein  
the belt has a Young's modulus and the arrangement has a Young's modulus that is  
smaller than the Young's modulus of the belt, and  
the arrangement is a protection seal that protects an edge of the belt from wearing,  
said protection seal having a Young's modulus in the range of 300 megapascals to 800  
megapascals.

Claim 3 (Canceled).

Claim 4 (Previously Presented): The belt according the claim 1, wherein the scale has  
a width and a length and includes a reflecting part and a non-reflecting part repeatedly  
disposed along the length of the scale at a predetermined interval.

Claim 5 (Previously Presented): The belt according the claim 1, wherein the scale has

a width and a length and includes a magnetic part and a non-magnetic part repeatedly disposed along the length of the scale at a predetermined interval.

Claim 6 (Previously Presented): A belt comprising:  
an arrangement that is attached to a portion of the belt, wherein  
the belt has a Young's modulus and the arrangement has a Young's modulus that is smaller than the Young's modulus of the belt, and  
the Young's modulus of the belt satisfies a relation:  
$$T/E \times L \times \alpha \leq 0.03 \text{ [millimeter]}$$
where, T is a tension applied to the belt in [N/mm<sup>2</sup>], E is the Young's modulus of the belt in [megapascals], L is a maximum image length in [millimeter], and  $\alpha$  is a percentage fluctuation in the Young's modulus.

Claim 7 (Currently Amended): An image forming apparatus comprising:  
means for forming an image;  
a rotating belt for forming the image, the rotating belt having a Young's modulus;  
an arrangement that is attached to a portion along the rotating belt, the arrangement having a Young's modulus that is smaller than the Young's modulus of the belt;  
a driving unit that drives the rotating belt;  
a reading unit that reads the scale; and  
a control unit that controls the driving unit based on a result of reading of the scale by the reading unit,  
wherein the Young's modulus of the belt is in a range of 3000 megapascals to 7000 megapascals.

Claim 8 (Currently Amended): A belt comprising:

an arrangement that is attached to a portion of the belt, wherein

the belt has a Young's modulus and the arrangement has a Young's modulus that is

smaller than the Young's modulus of the belt, and

the arrangement is a stopper, which prevents the belt from biasing toward an edge

side at the time of being driven, wherein

the stopper has a Young's modulus in a range of 2 megapascals to 10 megapascals,

and

the Young's modulus of the belt is in a range of 3000 megapascals to 7000 megapascals.

Claim 9 (Previously Presented): An image forming apparatus comprising:

means for forming an image;

means for driving a rotating belt for conveying a medium on which an image is directly transferred, the rotating belt having a Young's modulus;

an arrangement that is attached to a portion-along the rotating belt, the arrangement having a Young's modulus that is smaller than the Young's modulus of the rotating belt;

a reading unit that reads the arrangement;

a timing control unit that controls a start timing of an image forming operation based on a result of reading of the reading unit,

wherein the arrangement is a scale.

Claim 10 (Previously Presented): An image forming apparatus comprising:

means for forming an image;

means for driving a rotating belt for conveying a medium on which an image is

directly transferred, the rotating belt having a Young's modulus; and  
an arrangement that is attached to a portion-along the rotating belt, the arrangement  
having a Young's modulus that is smaller than the Young's modulus of the rotating belt,  
wherein the arrangement is a protection seal that protects an edge of the rotating belt  
from wearing, said protection seal having a Young's modulus in the range of 300  
megapascals to 800 megapascals.

Claim 11 (Canceled).

Claim 12 (Previously Presented): The image forming apparatus according to claim 9,  
wherein the scale has a width and a length and includes a reflecting part and a non-reflecting  
part repeatedly disposed along the length of the scale at a predetermined interval.

Claim 13 (Previously Presented): The image forming apparatus according to claim 9,  
wherein the scale has a width and a length and includes a magnetic part and a non-magnetic  
part repeatedly disposed along the length of the scale at a predetermined interval.

Claim 14 (Previously Presented): An image forming apparatus comprising:  
means for forming an image;  
means for driving a rotating belt for conveying a medium on which an image is  
directly transferred, the rotating belt having a Young's modulus; and  
an arrangement that is attached to a portion-along the rotating belt, the arrangement  
having a Young's modulus that is smaller than the Young's modulus of the rotating belt,  
wherein the Young's modulus of the rotating belt satisfies a relation:  
 $T/ExLx\alpha \leq 0.03$  [millimeter]

where, T is a tension applied to the rotating belt in [N/mm<sup>2</sup>], E is the Young's modulus of the rotating belt in [megapascals], L is a maximum image length in [millimeter], and  $\alpha$  is a percentage fluctuation in the Young's modulus.

Claim 15 (Canceled).

Claim 16 (Currently Amended): An image forming apparatus comprising:  
means for forming an image;  
means for driving a rotating belt for conveying a medium on which an image is directly transferred, the rotating belt having a Young's modulus; and  
an arrangement that is attached to a portion-along the rotating belt, the arrangement having a Young's modulus that is smaller than the Young's modulus of the rotating belt,  
wherein the arrangement is a stopper, which prevents the rotating belt from biasing toward an edge side at the time of being driven, and  
the stopper has a Young's modulus in a range of 2 megapascals to 10 megapascals,  
and  
the Young's modulus of the belt is in a range of 3000 megapascals to 7000 megapascals.